



Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule April, 2016

Programs meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail unless otherwise noted. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5153 for updates. See www.nps.gov/sagu for other programs.

April 1, 8, 15, 29 2:00 p.m. **The Saguaro Nursery** ½ mile guided walk

The reports of the saguaro's demise were greatly exaggerated! Take a stroll along a trail to see the next generation of young saguaros and the gradual renewal of the Cactus Forest.

April 1, 15, 29 3:00 p.m. **A Century of Tales** Presentation

Join us in the visitor center auditorium as we review a century of fun and interesting stories from those who lived and worked in what is today Saguaro National Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 1, 15, 29 7:00 p.m. **Night Walk** 1 mile guided walk

Join a park naturalist for this easy two-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, **advanced reservations are required**, and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153.

April 2 10:00 a.m. **Sharing the Desert's Stories** Activity

Children 5 to 10 years of age and parents are invited to come join us in the visitor center auditorium as we bring some of the Sonoran Desert's stories to life. **Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153.** *Wheelchair accessible*

April 2, 23 1:00 p.m. **The Point of the Matter is Cactus** Presentation
13 11:00 a.m.

Cactus are much more than strange plants with spines. They are uniquely equipped to thrive in the desert environment, and every year bloom with spectacular flowers. This theater presentation will highlight these survival marvels with a beautiful photo gallery. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 2, 16, 30 2:30 p.m. **Living in a Cactus Forest**

Our "Cactus Forest" was protected as a National Monument in 1933. But that doesn't mean it hasn't changed. Take an easy stroll through this desert preserve to learn about the past AND discuss the future of your National Park and the growing Tucson community.

April 3, 10, 17 11:00 a.m. **The GIANT Cactus** ¾ mile guided walk

Saguaro National Park is famous for its gigantic saguaros. Still, you have to know where to look to find a real giant among giants. The best way is to join a ranger for a walk along a desert wash for a lesson in trees of the desert and a look at the only tree-like cactus in the U.S. You'll be surprised by the size! Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

April 3, 10, 17 3:00 p.m. **CENTENNIAL!** Presentation

Celebrate the National Park Service's 100th Anniversary with a tour through time. We'll share history and scenery from every corner of the country, going back 100 years and more!

April 4, 5, 11, 12, 15 10:00 a.m. **Sonoran Lifestyles** Guided Walk
18, 19, 22, 25, 26, 29

Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

April 4, 18 2:00 p.m. **Grizzlies, Jaguars and Wolves – Oh My!** *Presentation*

Come listen in as we discuss the predators that once called Saguaro National Park home. How has human action impacted the park's natural history regarding these creatures? Is there a chance that these animals could ever come back?

April 5, 19 9:00 a.m. **The Destruction of Granite: A Trip to the Fault** *Guided Hike*

Join a ranger on a guided auto tour and hike inside the loop drive at Saguaro National Park. We will discuss the geological history of the park as well as southeastern Arizona. The hike portion will be 5 miles round trip. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and a trail snack. **Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153.**

April 5, 12 11:00 a.m. **A Taste of the Desert** *Garden Walk*

Join us for a stroll through our cactus garden and learn what plants can be used for food, clothing, medicine, shelter and much more. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 5, 26 12:30 p.m. **Venomous Reptiles at Saguaro National Park** *Presentation*

Come discover the fascinating lives of the venomous reptiles that call the Sonoran Desert their home in this auditorium presentation by volunteer and herpetologist Bob Brandner. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 5, 12, 19 3:00 p.m. **Birds of the Desert Southwest** *Presentation*

Join a park naturalist in the visitor center auditorium to explore the wide variety of birds found here in the desert southwest. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 6, 13, 20, 27 9:00 a.m. **Desert Morning Hike** *Guided Hike*

Join volunteer Dick Hollenback on this 3-hour, 4-mile hike to explore Saguaro National Park. Wear sturdy hiking boots and bring water and a trail snack.

April 6 10:00 a.m. **Desert Discovery** *Guided Walk*

Join a park naturalist on this 2-mile, 2-hour hike to discover what's out there in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

April 6, 27 11:00 a.m. **A Sticky Situation at Saguaro** *Presentation*
16 1:00 p.m.

Here at Saguaro National Park East we have 20 species of cactus and each is beautiful in its own way. Finding them all can be a challenge, but we will see each one in a stunning photo gallery and learn a few uses these plants have to those living here and beyond. Theater presentation. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 6, 13, 27 2:00 p.m. **Cactus Caravan** *Auto Tour*

Begin your exploration of the Cactus Forest Drive with a park ranger and become familiar with some of the common cacti. A great introduction to the park! *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 7 10:00 a.m. **Where Have All the Saguaros Gone?** *2 mile Guided Hike*

Why does it look like our saguaros are disappearing? Join a park naturalist to discover what historic activities, including lime kilns, have affected our saguaro forest and learn how these giant cacti are faring today.

April 7, 14, 28 2:00 p.m. **Drive-Thru Geology** *1 ½ -hour auto tour*

Hop in your car for a journey through 25 million years of earth history...in one hour! We'll observe the varied landforms of the desert – bajadas, washes, outcrops – and find out why geology students from around the world come to see the Rincon Mountain foothills. (Hint: it's the mylonitic gneiss!)

April 7 7:00 p.m. **Star Party** *illustrated program & activity*

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. **Reservations required. Call 733-5153.** *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 8 11:00 a.m. **The Changing Cactus Forest** *Presentation*

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to discover how the changes in the Cactus Forest over the years relate to potential changes in the future. Included will be a discussion of major climate change effects on parks, relating each to Saguaro National Park.

April 8, 22 3:00 p.m. **Creating Saguaro National Park** *presentation*

Join staff in the visitor center auditorium to discover how abuse, failure, politics, commitment, recovery and the Tucson Garden Club all played a part in creating today's Saguaro National Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 9 7:00 a.m. **Monthly Buffelgrass Pull**

Join park staff in the fight to eradicate buffelgrass, an invasive plant. Meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center parking lot. Long pants, long-sleeved shirts and sturdy shoes are required. Tools and gloves will be provided. Bring a snack and plenty of water. Contact sagu_invasives@nps.gov with questions.

April 9, 30 1:00 a.m. **Flash, Whoosh, Gush, and Growth: Sonoran Desert Monsoon Rain**
20 11:00 a.m. *Presentation*

The summer heat and humidity bring the mighty and sometimes destructive monsoon rain. Saguaros, toads, and others *depend* on these drenching storms to begin a new season of life in the dry desert. A fabulous video opens this theater presentation. *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 11, 25 2:00 p.m. **Mountain Islands in a Desert Sea** *Presentation*

Interested in learning about the Saguaro National Park that most visitors will never experience? Sky islands are considered to be some of the most unique, biodiverse ecosystems in the world. Join us to discuss Saguaro's high-elevation habitat and how we can continue to protect these very special wild places for the future.

April 12, 26 9:00 a.m. **The History of the Rincon Valley** *Guided Hike*

Take a stroll down the Hope Camp Trail and learn about the homesteaders and ranchers who settled here, as well as other aspects of the Rincon and Tanque Verde Valleys. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water and a trail snack. **Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling (520) 733-5153.**

April 12 12:30 p.m. **Living With and Without Reptiles** *Presentation*

Join volunteer and herpetologist Bob Brandner in the visitor center auditorium to explore the biology of Sonoran Desert reptiles and how we can share the desert with them, *Wheelchair accessible.*

April 14 10:00 a.m. **Visitor's Choice/Naturalist's Choice** *Guided Walk*

Here's your chance to take a walk with a park naturalist with 10+ years' experience in the Sonoran Desert. Bring your favorite question or topic, or just enjoy the best stories of the day: wildlife, wildflowers, or wilderness, as the weather and the seasons change. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

April 16, 30 6:00 p.m. **Sunset Hike** *Guided Hike*

Sonoran Desert sunsets are famous for their blazing colors. Join a park ranger to discover how nature will paint the sky tonight. Wear sturdy walking shoes.

April 19 12:30 p.m. **Tortoises of the United States** *Presentation*

Join volunteer and herpetologist Bob Brandner to discover the different species of tortoises found in the U.S and which ones call Arizona home.